

---

FEBRUARY 24, 1806.

---

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house, on Thursday next.

---

## A Bill,

For establishing trading houses with the Indian Tribes.



1    Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That it  
3 shall be lawful for the president of the United States, to establish  
4 trading houses at such posts and places on the frontiers, or in the  
5 Indian country, on either or both sides of the Mississippi river, as  
6 he shall judge most convenient, for the purpose of carrying on a  
7 liberal trade with the several Indian nations, within the United  
8 States, or their territories.

1    Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the purveyor of public sup-  
2 plies shall be the superintendent of Indian trade, whose duty it shall  
3 be to purchase and take charge of all goods intended for trade with  
4 the Indian nations aforesaid, and to transmit the same to such  
5 places as he shall be directed by the president of the United States.

6 And he shall, in addition to the bond already required by law, give  
 7 bond in the further penal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars,  
 8 with sufficient security, to be approved of by the secretary of the  
 9 treasury of the United States, truly and honestly to account for all  
 10 the money, goods, and other property whatever, which shall come  
 11 into his hands, or for which in good faith he ought so to account,  
 12 and to perform all the duties required of him by this act; and his  
 13 accounts shall be made up quarter yearly, and transmitted to the  
 14 secretary of the treasury.

1     *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That in addition to the salary  
 2 allowed by law to the purveyor of public supplies, he shall receive,  
 3 as superintendent of Indian trade, an annual salary of  
 4 dollars, payable quarter yearly, at the treasury of the United  
 5 States.

1     *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That the superintendent of  
 2 Indian trade shall be authorized to nominate, and with the approba-  
 3 tion of the president of the United States, to appoint, for each  
 4 trading house established, an agent, for whose good conduct the  
 5 said superintendent shall be responsible; and it shall be lawful for  
 6 the said superintendent to demand, from each agent so appointed, a  
 7 bond, with sufficient surety, in a sum not exceeding  
 8 dollars, for the faithful discharge of the duties imposed upon such  
 9 agent by this act.

1     *Sec. 5. And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of each  
 2 of the said agents, to receive, from the superintendent of Indian

3 trade, and dispose of, in trade with the Indian nations aforesaid,  
 4 such goods as may be transmitted to him by the said superintendent,  
 5 to be received and disposed of as aforesaid, according to the rules  
 6 and orders which the president of the United States shall prescribe;  
 7 and every such agent shall take an oath, or affirmation, faithfully  
 8 to execute the trust committed to him; and that he will not, directly  
 9 or indirectly, be concerned or interested in any trade, commerce or  
 10 barter, but on the public account; and he shall render an account,  
 11 quarter yearly, to the superintendent of Indian trade, of all money,  
 12 goods, and other property whatsoever, which shall be transmitted  
 13 to him, or which shall come into his hands, or for which, in good  
 14 faith, he ought to account; and he shall transmit duplicates of his  
 15 accounts to the secretary of the treasury of the United States.

1     Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the superintendent of  
 2 Indian trade, the agents, their clerks, or other persons employed by  
 3 them, shall not be, directly or indirectly, concerned in exporting to  
 4 a foreign country, any peltries or furs belonging to the United  
 5 States, or interested in carrying on the business of trade or com-  
 6 merce, on their own, or any other than the public account, or take  
 7 or apply to his or their own use, any emolument or gain for negoti-  
 8 ating or transacting any business or trade, during his or their appoint-  
 9 ment, agency or employment, other than provided by this act, or  
 10 excepting for or on account of the United States. And if any such  
 11 person shall offend against any of the prohibitions aforesaid, he  
 12 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon convic-



4 a sum not exceeding                      dollars, to be applied under his  
5 direction to the payment of the agents, and clerks; which agents  
6 shall be allowed to draw out of the public supplies                      rations  
7 each, and each clerk                      ration, per day.

1 Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the sum of                dol-  
2 lars, exclusive of the salary of the superintendent of Indian trade,  
3 and of the allowances to agents and clerks, be, and the same is here-  
4 by appropriated, for the purpose of carrying on trade and inter-  
5 course with the Indian nations, in the manner aforesaid, to be paid  
6 out of any monies in the treasury of the United States, not other-  
7 wise appropriated.

1    Sec 11. *And be it further enacted,* That if any agent or agents,  
2 their clerks, or other person employed by them, shall purchase or  
3 receive from any Indian, in the way of trade or barter, any gun,  
4 or other article commonly used in hunting; any instrument of hus-  
5 bandry or cooking utensil, of the kind usually obtained by Indians  
6 in their intercourse with white people, or any article of clothing,  
7 excepting skins or furs, he or they shall respectively forfeit the sum  
8 of                    dollars, for each offence, to be recovered by action  
9 of debt, in the name and to the use of the United States, in any court  
10 having jurisdiction in like cases. *Provided,* That no suit shall be  
11 commenced except in the state or territory within which the cause of  
12 action shall have arisen, or in which the defendant may reside.  
13 And it shall be the duty of the superintendent of Indian trade, or of  
14 the superintendents of Indian affairs, and their deputies respectively,  
15 to whom information of every such offence shall be given, to col-

16 lect the requisite evidence, if attainable, to prosecute the offender  
17 without delay.

1     Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the  
2 said superintendent of Indian trade, under the direction of the  
3 president of the United States, to cause the said furs and peltry to  
4 be sold at public auction, in different parts of the United States, mak-  
5 ing an equal distribution of the same, in proportion to the demand  
6 of the market, and as may be deemed most advantageous to the  
7 United States, and upon such terms and conditions as shall be pre-  
8 scribed by the secretary of war. *Provided*, That there shall not  
9 be less than six annual public sales, of the said furs and peltry, and  
10 that the superintendent of Indian trade shall not hold more than two  
11 such sales in any state, during any one year.

1     Sec 13. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in force  
2 from and after the fourth day of March next, for and during the term  
3 of                   years, and no longer.